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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 116 (b)
Human rights questions: Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Indonesia, issued on 15 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union. (See annex.)

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 116 (b).

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-44137 (E) 250500 250500

Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Indonesia issued on 15 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union wants to see a strong, democratic, united and prosperous Indonesia. It supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia and has welcomed the efforts of the present Indonesian Government to solve the country's internal conflicts through dialogue rather than force of arms. The European Union therefore welcomes the signature on 12 May 2000 in Geneva of a memorandum of understanding between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement. It urges both sides to abide by its terms. The European Union considers that the memorandum of understanding represents a first step towards finding a just and lasting solution to the problems in Aceh. The European Union also welcomes the start of the legal process to bring to justice the alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses in the province.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the statement.

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Agenda item 63
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 May 2000 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, to which is appended a letter from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 15 May 2000 (see enclosure), would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-44273 (E) 240500

Annex to the letter dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 15 May 2000 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the recent unilateral goodwill measures announced by the Turkish Cypriot side with the aim of further enhancing the living standards of the Greek Cypriots and Maronites residing in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

As I have already informed your Special Adviser on Cyprus Mr. Alvaro de Soto, during the second round of proximity talks held in Geneva from 31 January to 10 February 2000, we were contemplating announcing a number of unilateral good will measures aimed at further enhancing the living standards of the Greek Cypriot and Maronite residents of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

On 5 May 2000, the Council of Ministers of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus announced these measures, the English translation of which is attached for your perusal, in the form of a statement issued by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

I hope that these measures will be received by the Greek Cypriot side in the same spirit of good will that they have been made.

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**
President

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence

The Council of Ministers of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus announced the following measures on 5 May 2000:

1. All visa fees and exit charges except for one pound sterling processing fee or its equivalent in local currency (Turkish lira), have been waived. Monthly multiple entry and exit charge is ten pounds sterling or its equivalent in local currency (Turkish lira).

2. Greek Cypriots and Maronites who cross over to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to visit their close relatives can stay in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for a reasonable period by virtue of a permit given by the Ministry concerned. Application for extending the duration of stay for family and health reasons or other extenuating circumstances will be entertained by the said Ministry upon proper application.

3. The age restriction applied to Greek Cypriot students who are yet to fulfil military service and are continuing their education in Southern Cyprus who wish to visit their families (parents or grandparents) in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has been lifted.

The applicants have to produce the necessary documentation for proof of age and studentship.

4. In the event that a Greek Cypriot or Maronite residing in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus marries a Greek Cypriot or Maronite or any other third party national residing outside Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus territory, the spouse, on proof of marriage by production of relevant documents, will be permitted to take up residency in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in accordance with relevant Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus legislation.

5. Freedom of movement throughout the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on par with Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus citizens, is ensured.

6. Any Maronite or Greek Cypriot residing in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus may apply for Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus citizenship.

7. The above permits may be withdrawn at any time for reasons of security or law and order.

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Letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on Sri Lanka issued on 15 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 116 (b).

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations

00-44304 (E) 250500 260500

Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Sri Lanka issued on 15 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

1. The European Union is deeply concerned about the increasing intensity of the conflict in Sri Lanka and the serious effect this is having on the country, its people and its economy.

2. The European Union calls upon both parties in this tragic, long-running conflict to cease hostilities and begin negotiations with a view to securing a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

3. The European Union reminds both parties of their responsibility to ensure the safety of the civilian population in conflict zones, in particular in the Jaffna Peninsula.

4. The European Union joins the United Nations Secretary-General in urging both parties to cooperate with the Government of Norway in its endeavours to facilitate a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

5. The European Union regrets the restrictions on civil liberties and press freedom under the emergency regulations introduced by the Government of Sri Lanka, and calls on the Government to lift them as soon as possible.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Iceland and Liechtenstein, European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.